

REMARKS

Claims 8-18 were pending in the application. Claim 8 has been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Claims 19-20 have been added. Therefore, claims 8-20 are pending and are submitted for consideration.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 8-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,154,954 (“Seto”). The rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reason.

Independent claim 8, as amended, recites a component placement device that comprises, among other things, an elongated transport device, at least one component feeder, at least one component pick-and-place unit and “a substrate support that is situated along a longitudinal side of the transport device and that faces away from the at least one component feeder, the *substrate support extends perpendicular to the transport direction.*”

Seto fails to teach or suggest such a component placement device. The Examiner contends that Seto discloses a component placement device comprising a transport device (3), a substrate (T) and a component feeder (4,5). However, Seto does not disclose a substrate support on a longitudinal side of the transport device that faces away from at least one component feeder, and the substrate support extending perpendicular to the transport direction of the transport device. The transport device (3) of Seto, as identified by the Examiner, is a conveyor that includes a supply passage (15), a table (14), and a delivery passage (16). *See* Seto at Fig. 2. The transport device transports the substrate in the direction of the arrow in Fig. 2 (the y-direction). The substrate is supported by the table (14). *See* Seto at col. 12, lines 17-22. Assuming, arguendo, that the table (14) can be considered a substrate support, Applicant’s find no teaching that it is situated on a longitudinal side of the transport device and extends “perpendicular to the transport direction” of the conveyor (3). Rather, the table (14) is in the *center* of the conveyor (3). *See* Seto at col. 12, line 17. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of amended claim 8.

Claims 9-18 and new claim 19 depend from claim 8 and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable subject matter set forth in these dependent claim,

New independent claim 20 recites a component placement device that comprises, among other things, an elongated transport device, a component feeder that is located *only on one longitudinal side* of the transport device, at least one component pick-and-place unit, and “a substrate support that is situated along a longitudinal side of the transport device on an opposite side of the transport device from the component feeder, the substrate support extends perpendicular to the transport device.”

Seto fails to teach or suggest such a component placement device. Seto discloses component feeders (4, 5, 6) that are not located only on one longitudinal side of the transport device. One component feeder (4) is on one longitudinal side of the transport device (3) of Seto and two additional component feeders (5, 6) are on an opposite longitudinal side of the transport device (3). Furthermore, Seto does not disclose a substrate support on a longitudinal side of the transport device and the substrate support extending perpendicular to the transport device. Assuming, *arguendo*, that the table (14) can be considered a substrate support, Applicant’s find no teaching that it is situated on a longitudinal side of the transport device and extends “perpendicular to the transport device”. Rather, the table (14) is in the *center* of the conveyor (3). *See* Seto at col. 12, line 17. Thus, new claim 20 should be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment,

to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extension fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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